



# Spotlight on CTE

*Highlighting Student Leadership Activities and Achievements in Career and Technical Education*

November 2006

## Welcome to our First November Edition!

Can you believe it's **November** already? By now, more state and national competitions and awards are on display and pictures of winners have flashed proudly across the headlines. The celebration excitement and warm memories even help ward off the November chill. We aim to share some of that warmth in this issue, as you read of the many accomplishments of our Career and Technical Education students and their officers as the year unfolds.

We here in the Office of Career and Technical Preparation are thankful, and not just because it's Thanksgiving. Thank you state CTSO directors and student members all, for raising the bar and achieving your goals of academic performance, professionalism, community service, commitment, leadership, and vision in the paths you have chosen for your lives. The future looks brighter because of you.

**Remember, our next issue will be in MAY.** The due date for submission of articles is **Friday, April 13**, a date to remember! The issue will be a compiled one, to capture Spring competition results and end of school year plans. As you firm up your plans and calendars for next semester, let us know so we can help you get the word out! Email the editor at [beltzd@michigan.gov](mailto:beltzd@michigan.gov). Have safe and happy holiday celebrations!

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## Monroe Construction Technology/ Habitat for Humanity Partnership

Monroe Public Schools and Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County have formed a "Youth Educational Construction Program", in collaboration with many community partners. Start-up was made possible through the financial support of

several prominent business partners and community supporters of and volunteers from Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with Monroe Public School's Construction Technology Program.



Like many programs, this program provides an on-the-job learning experience for the enrolled Monroe High students. They build a simple, respectable, and affordable house

within the Monroe School District, to be occupied by a qualifying family from the community. However, unlike other Habitat homes, this home will have a building schedule that benefits the students, and becomes part of the program's curriculum. This unique approach provides youth not only hands-on jobsite construction experience, but the chance to learn many valuable skills directly from qualified teachers, craftsmen and women, and related career professionals. The accredited curriculum includes planning, scheduling, construction techniques, and an opportunity

to work on exterior and interior landscaping design. Students also perform a valuable community service by building the

house from start-to-finish alongside the family and the community, completing the house by the end of the school year.

Other Monroe High School programs that will be involved with this project include Architectural Drafting, CAD, and Interior Design.

Congratulations to a job – and house – well done, to Alan Dieter, instructor for this highly successful program, to his terrific students, and to the lucky new homeowners!



# Student Spotlight

*Excerpted from a News Release by David Mellor, FFA Advisor*

Congratulations to **Brad Naebeck**, of the Saline FFA Chapter, who was named national winner of the **Turf Grass Management—Entrepreneurship proficiency award** program at the 79th National FFA Convention, on October 27, in Indianapolis!



Brad began operating his own turf-care business at age 12. His first account was a local cemetery. Since then, he expanded his after-school, weekend, and summer business, **Season to Season Landscape Solutions**, to nine accounts. In Michigan's long off-season, the teenager offers snow plowing and firewood cutting services.

By the time he was old enough to drive, Naebeck had saved enough money to buy a 16-foot trailer. He reinvested into his business all first-year profits and much of his profits from subsequent years. Naebeck used his profits to upgrade his hand-held trimmers and blower to commercial models. The young entrepreneur obtained a business loan to buy a 60-inch zero-turn commercial mower.

Earlier this year, Naebeck was named Michigan's state winner, as well as runner-up to Michigan's FFA Star in Agribusiness. He competed against state winners chosen from the 52 state FFA associations. Naebeck's award was sponsored by *John Deere* as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. He was awarded **\$1,250** in cash awards, plaques and a 10-day travel seminar to **Costa Rica!** The award was one of 50 Agricultural Proficiency Awards presented in areas ranging from aquaculture to emerging agricultural technology. The awards recognize FFA members who excel as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees, or volunteers while they gain hands-on experience. Besides his proficiency award, Naebeck has received scholarships from the Davey Tree Expert Company, Michigan Green Industry Association, and the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association.

Naebeck focused his high school agriscience studies on the landscape and turf management course offered by the South and West Washtenaw Consortium at Saline High School near Ann Arbor. "Agriscience classes taught me the technical aspects of the business—how to make a lawn look aesthetically beautiful, keep it healthy, price it, and identify grasses and other plants," said the student.

His agriscience teacher and FFA advisor, David Mellor, teaches classes that prepare students for immediate entry into the green

industry or college programs in golf course management, commercial or sports turf management, nursery operation, or landscape design and construction. Students learn how to set up their own turf or landscape business, operate commercial landscape power equipment, survey land, design a landscape plan using traditional and computer-aided design methods, prepare a budget and bid proposal, keep business records, and construct a landscape project. His students gain skills in landscape plant identification, pest management, and plant care.

Mellor's students complete an internship called a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. SAE provides real-world application of concepts and principles learned in the agriscience classroom. Students have opportunities to explore careers, gain professional experience, earn money, and develop managerial skills, while working toward their educational and career goals. Working in combination, the three components of agricultural education — supervised agricultural experience, classroom education and FFA — provide students with an advantage in the job market, in attaining scholarships and college enrollment, in starting their own business, and in developing a plan for success in life.

Naebeck, a 2006 graduate of Saline High School, is majoring in the two-year **Sports and Commercial Turfgrass Management program at Michigan State University**. Within five to six years, Naebeck hopes to have expanded his business to a full-time venture with year-round services. Until then, he plans to work as a supervisor for a large landscape services company to gain further experience. Within the next year, Naebeck plans to become certified as a Commercial Pesticide Applicator so he can offer services to control turf weeds, insects, and fungi. Plans include gaining a Commercial Driver License so he can drive vehicles with trailers rated for heavier weight.

FFA is a national youth organization of 476,732 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,000 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The Michigan FFA Association has 5,400 members in more than 100 schools. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.

## Outstanding Saginaw NATEF Program

*Excerpted from a News Release; Suzanne Marvosh, Contact*

The Automotive Technology program at the Saginaw Career Complex recently successfully completed an on-site evaluation with NATEF, the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation. NATEF will make a recommendation to ASE, the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, to award a 5-year program certification to the Career Complex. Areas of NATEF certification include: brakes, electrical/electronic systems, engine performance and suspension/steering.

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The evaluation team leader from NATEF stated, “**This is the ‘best’ program I have ever reviewed.**” He has reviewed 40 in the past year. He added, “Your students are polite and on-task. You are doing the right things with the limited dollars you get to operate the program.”

Students enrolled in the Automotive Technology program at the Career Complex can earn 15 Delta College credits (articulated) toward their Associates Degree in the automotive field. In addition to the ASE approved Automotive Technology program, the Saginaw Career Complex offers 25 career and technical programs (with articulated college credit) to more than 800 students from all school districts in the Saginaw area. Academic instruction is integrated into the programs, and the NATEF evaluator commented, “You are right on with the way you are providing academic instruction in the program. I call your place outstanding.”

For more information about the outstanding Career and Technical programs at the Saginaw Career Complex, call (989) 399-6150.

## SkillsUSA Update

**Important Announcement!** We are pleased to be able to announce that **Tammy Matthies Brown** has been hired as the **SkillsUSA Michigan State Director**. She officially started October 1, 2006. Mrs. Brown comes to the office with 25 years association with the organization, from serving as State President and State Officer Coordinator, to most recently serving as coordinator of the Leadership Events at the State Skills Championships. With her vast experiences, she is going to be a tremendous asset to the organization. You may contact Tammy at:

Tammy Brown  
SkillsUSA – Michigan  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
734-487-3888 phone  
734-487-4329 fax

**Welcome Tammy!**

### National Medal Winners

Wow! Congratulations to Team SkillsUSA Michigan. For a list of winners, please visit:

[http://www.miskillsusa.org/national\\_winners.html](http://www.miskillsusa.org/national_winners.html)

## State CTSO Director's Corner

Newsletter Publishing Schedule: (revised October, 2006)

Articles/Submissions Due:	Publish Date:
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April 13, 2007	May, 2007
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October 12, 2007	November, 2007
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State CTSO directors **only**, please e-mail submissions to Donna Beltz, Editor, at [beltzd@michigan.gov](mailto:beltzd@michigan.gov). Thank you!

## Automotive Education Day is Coming!

North American International Auto Show

January 17, 2007

Registration and Up to Date Information:

[www.naias.com/aed2007](http://www.naias.com/aed2007)

The Automotive Education Day, presented by State Farm Insurance, is designed to provide a fun learning experience for school groups in grades 8-12, allowing them to explore career paths in all automotive fields.

It is recommended that schools attend Opening Remarks, followed by visiting manufacturer exhibits on the show floor. School groups should arrive at 7:30 a.m., and will be welcomed with Opening Remarks by **Hillary Will**, in Cobo Arena at Cobo Center at approximately 9am.

**Hillary Will:** Driver of the KB Racing Top Fuel Dragster: 0-330 MPH in 4.5 seconds. The rookie driver won her first Top Fuel event at the IHRA Skull Shine Nationals in Norwalk, Ohio.

The former gymnast and collegiate springboard diver, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Economics from Wheaton College in Norton, MA.

Hillary's KB Racing Top Fuel team is owned by Las Vegas businessmen Ken Black and Kenny Black who also field two Summit Racing Equipment Pro Stock Pontiac GTOs, driven by Jason Line and 3-time POWERade world champion, Greg Anderson.

The team is managed by the legendary Connie Kalitta, a former Michigan Entrepreneur of the Year, who has built the tremendously successful air cargo business, Kalitta Air. For more information see <http://www.hillarywillrace.com/>.

After opening remarks, school groups will then enter the show floor, to visit manufacturing exhibits, and to obtain more automotive career information in small groups and one-on-one discussion with industry experts. Discussion will center on topics and symposiums in the automotive industry, such as the latest technology, automotive design, engineering, and environmental concerns.

A discounted school price admission of \$10 (USD) or \$11.50 (CAN) will be charged per person, with one chaperone expected per 10 students, and minimum order of 20 tickets. A lunch coupon is provided (sandwich and drink in Cobo Arena's Food Court).

Questions or comments may be directed to:  
Michelle Collins (248) 458-1127 or [mcollins@dada.org](mailto:mcollins@dada.org)  
Kelly Cavanaugh (248) 458-1345 or [kcavanaugh@dada.org](mailto:kcavanaugh@dada.org)



## Award-winning Golden Knight Cadets are JROTC National Model

### *A new and emerging program in the Government and Public Services Career Cluster*

The **Golden Knight Cadets**, based at the Jackson Area Career Center, are the only career center-based JROTC program in the United States, according to Lt. Col. Curt Lapham, Senior Instructor. Along with Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Tom Emond and Sgt. Jimmy Baker, he strives to “motivate young people to be better citizens”, through performing public service and developing leadership skills. “People tend to see us as preparing students for the military,” he continued, “but it’s really all about character development, about motivating them to see purpose in their education.”



Students from high schools throughout Jackson County participate in this outstanding two-year program. Fifteen program cadets are going on to colleges to become officers, many with scholarships.

It’s easy to see why! On April 29, 2006, President Bush awarded the Golden Knights the ***President’s Gold Medallion for Community Service***. Congresswoman Leslie Mortimer proudly presented the medal on the President’s behalf to Dr. John Graves, Superintendent of Jackson County ISD. The Golden Knight Cadets serve 22 High Schools in 3 counties for special veteran celebrations, “presenting the colors”, performing drill demonstrations, and serving their community in many other service activities.

On October 7, 2006, over 400 young Cadets gathered at the Truman High School gymnasium, in Taylor, Michigan, for the Michigan-Ohio JROTC Drill Competition. Drill and Ceremony Competitions encourage precision, discipline, selfless service, team building, split second decision-making and leadership. The four-person Color Guard Competition team from the Golden Knight Cadets competed against ten Army and Air Force JROTC Programs from both Michigan and Ohio. **They took 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> place honors!**

The **Second-Year Varsity Team** finished with the 4<sup>th</sup> place trophy. The team members are Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Justin Gordon (Pittsford), Captain Jon Boyes (Western Options), Sergeants Cory Mercer (Napoleon) and John Orren (Napoleon). CSM Gordon was the cadet-in-charge of the team.

The **First-Year Team** finished with the 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy. The team members are Corporal Joshua Lakatos (Grass Lake), Privates Heather Birchfield (Grass Lake), Catlin Willis (Grass Lake) and Leticia Holloway (Jackson). Private Birchfield was the cadet-in-charge of the team.

In the “Individual Knock-Out”, a single elimination drill competition, the nearly 400 cadets faced-off and tested their skills against each other.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place was earned by Captain Stephanie Hall (Jackson).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place was earned by Staff Sergeant Franklin Houser (Tomlinson).
- 5<sup>th</sup> place was earned by Private David Fex (Jackson).

Congratulations to all! In their own words, **“Golden Knights Continue to Lead the Way.”**

## FCCLA State Officers Meet With Assistant Secretary of Education

*Brad Schmidt, State Advisor*

Six Michigan FCCLA State Officers met with Troy Justesen, Assistant Secretary of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education on October 2 as part of a



leadership conference they attended in Washington DC. While in Washington, they also met with representatives in Senator Stabenow’s and Senator Levin’s offices, as well as the offices of Bart Stupak, Thaddeus McCotter, John Dingell, Pete Hoekstra, and Joe Schwarz to talk about the Carl Perkins Act and share with them the good things Career and Technical Education is doing for them and the students at their schools.

Dr. Justesen shared with them the challenges and opportunities that CTE faces in the future, as well as some insight into how the Department of Education and Congress works. **His best advice for us in Career and Technical Education is to strive to show how CTE teaches and gives practical application to academic skills.**

He also encourages us to continue to share our successes with our elected officials – often, they don’t see what the money they appropriate is actually going for, and that’s the best way to ensure that Perkins money will keep flowing down to the local schools.

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Six of the seven Michigan FCCLA State Officers participated in the FCCLA Ultimate State Officer Academy in Washington, DC from October 1 – 4, 2006. The Officers who attended were Jill Borman from Brethren High School, Michigan FCCLA's State President; Katy Miller from Saline High School, Vice President of Programs; Samantha Magdaleno from Belleville High School, Vice President of Membership; Kaylynn Portice from Pickford High School, Vice President of Community Service; Ashley Miller from Brethren High School, Vice President of Public Relations; and Clare Humphrey from Saline High School, State Secretary.

The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America – The Ultimate Leadership Experience is the Career and Technical Student Organization for Family & Consumer Sciences Education and Early Childhood Education. For more information about FCCLA and our activities, visit us on the web at [www.mifccla.org](http://www.mifccla.org).

## OVAE Signs Letter Outlining Policy Regarding CTSOs

10-6-06 email from Tim Lawrence, Executive Director, SkillsUSA [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org)

We had great meetings in Washington, DC last week as our students and teachers made at least 60 visits to Congress on behalf of CTE and SkillsUSA. Many of these visits were to Senators and written reports are still coming in. Students thanked their representatives for their support of Perkins and asked for continued appropriations. During the training phase of our Washington Leadership Training Institute, our students, teachers and administrators heard from presenters with a lot of substance. These included Troy Justesen, Assistant Secretary of Education from OVAE; Al Frink, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Dr. Ken Gray from Penn State, Kim Green from NASDCTE, and Keri Haars from ACTE. And yes, our Arizona students did indeed visit the office of Representative Flake, the one dissenting Perkins vote in the House.

Troy Justesen was a huge hit with the students and teachers. He spoke for an hour about individual purpose and the importance and potential of every student. The students then really stepped up to the plate with very intelligent and articulate questions for the assistant secretary. Justesen then spent a half hour posing for pictures and talking to students and teachers individually. Finally, he reached into his briefcase and handed me what we have been seeking from the Bush administration from the beginning - a policy statement regarding Career and Technical Student Organizations as integral to Career and Technical Education instructional programs. **The policy letter can be found at this link** and I would encourage you to print a copy for your files: [www.skillsusa.org/downloads/PDF/ctsopolicy.pdf](http://www.skillsusa.org/downloads/PDF/ctsopolicy.pdf).

The National Coordinating Council for CTSOs has been working hard for some time to make this policy statement a reality. Coleman Harris of the National FFA is our current chairman and he has distributed this letter to all the CTSO national offices.

The very next day we saw Assistant Secretary Justesen again at The White House. I accompanied students and teachers from our Texas delegation on the White House visit. The students met with White House political affairs and public affairs staff. They not only listened, they also made their own presentations on the value of CTE. I believe they rang up some points.

## 2006-07 Calendar of Upcoming CTSO Events

<b>BPA:</b>	<a href="http://www.michiganbpa.org">www.michiganbpa.org</a>
March 22-25	State Leadership Conference, Grand Rapids
May 9-13	National Leadership Conference, NY, NY
<b>DECA:</b>	<a href="http://www.mideca.org">www.mideca.org</a>
February 1	Scholarship application deadline to Michigan DECA
March 16-18	State Career Development Conference, Dearborn
April 27-May 2	International Career Development Conference, Orlando, Florida
<b>FCCLA:</b>	<a href="http://www.mifccla.org">www.mifccla.org</a>
	(great scholarship links at this website)
April 18-20	State Leadership Meeting, Midland
July 8-12	National Leadership Meeting, Anaheim, CA
<b>FFA:</b>	<a href="http://www.michiganffa.com">www.michiganffa.com</a>
December 13-14	MFB/FFA Ag Career and Leadership Conference – Mt. Pleasant
January 12	MHTA student scholarship application deadline
<b>HOSA:</b>	<a href="http://www.michiganhosa.org">www.michiganhosa.org</a>
February-March	Regional Leadership conferences – see website for dates
April 19-21	State Leadership Conference, Acme, MI
<b>SkillsUSA</b>	<a href="http://www.miskillsusa.org">www.miskillsusa.org</a>
April 27-29	State Leadership Conference, Lansing

It is the policy of the Office of Career and Technical Preparation that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, height, weight, marital status, or disability shall be subjected to discrimination in any program, service or activity for which it is responsible, or for which it receives financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Education. For further information, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator, Office of Career and Technical Preparation, P.O. Box 30712, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 373-3373.

